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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/46/645/Add.9)]

46/165. Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989, on the end-of-decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and its revitalization,

Recalling also the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ in which the General Assembly stressed in particular the need for developed countries and international organizations to support the efforts of developing countries to create and develop endogenous capacities in the area of scientific and technological capability,

Recalling that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, at its thirty-seventh session, decided that building and strengthening national capacity for the transfer and adaptation of technology for development should be one of the areas on which the United Nations Development Programme should focus attention, 3/

1/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

2/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 9 (E/1990/29), annex I, decision 90/34.

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Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session, 4/

Reaffirming that knowledge is the crucial determinant of progress and that science and technology have a critical role in the reactivation of development, especially in developing countries,

Conscious that new and emerging technologies, such as information technologies and new materials, are radically shifting the comparative advantages between different countries, thereby constituting both an opportunity and a challenge to policy makers and international organizations,

Recognizing that access to and capacity to generate environmentally sound technologies is essential for the full incorporation of environmental concerns into national development strategies,

Recognizing that the United Nations should play a central role in the enhancement of assistance to build the endogenous capacity of developing countries in science and technology and to facilitate their access to technologies on favourable terms,

Reaffirming the role of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the Secretariat as the focal point, inter alia, for technological assessment within the United Nations system and, where possible, for relations with Governments and non-governmental organizations concerning technological assessment activity in Member States,

Recognizing that the role and relevance of the United Nations in this critically important area needs further enhancement and strengthening to respond more forcefully to the emerging needs of developing countries,

Bearing in mind its resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and without prejudice to its implementation,

1. Endorses resolution 1 (XI) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development; 5/

2. Urges that national efforts and international development cooperation, in particular through supportive financial and technical assistance from donor Governments, multilateral lending institutions and international agencies, be intensified and strengthened towards endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and on the basis of the discussion by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development of the substantive theme of its twelfth session, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session a comprehensive, analytical report on ways and means of strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries;

4/ A/46/37.

5/ Ibid., chap. II.

4. Requests the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth session, or possible successor arrangements, after reviewing the report of the Secretary-General on the matter, submitted to it in response to resolution 1 (XI), to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session concrete proposals for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of developing countries.

78th plenary meeting
19 December 1991